He called upon India to conduct no further tests and to sign the CTBT without any conditions. Sanctions have been imposed on India under US legislation—the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act (1994).

(c) Prime Minister has written to President Clinton explaining the rationale underlying the decision to authorise these tests which were aimed at reassuring the India people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns. Active contacts are being promoted with different sections of society, making clear our legitimate national security interests and undiluted commitment to global nuclear disarmament.

(d) Government intends to continue to actively engage various countries, both at the official as well as the non-official level, highlighting our unique record of restraint and responsible conduct and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In our interaction with interlocutors in various countries, Government have reaffirmed that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are marked by a high degree of restraint and responsible conduct.

Norms for determination of poverty line

*36. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms prescribed for identification of people below poverty line;

(b) whether the State Governments have opposed these norms;

(c) if so, the views of different State Governments expressed in the matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) the poverty line is anchored in the per capita daily intake of 2400 calorie in rural areas and 2100 calorie in urban areas. The money value of this norm is computed on a state-wise basis using state-specific prices.

(b) and (c) Due to difference in prices, the poverty line is above the national average in some state and below in some others. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are among the states where the poverty line is below the national average. These two state governments have represented to the Planning Commission on the plea that the state government sponsored food subsidy scheme is responsible for a lower price of foodgrains and hence a lower poverty ratio.

(d) The poverty ratios of all the states of the country reflect the efforts made by both the Central and State governments for alleviation of poverty.

Dues payable to the widow of a Government servant

*37. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the dues that can be paid to a widow of a Government servant, who dies in harness;

(b) whether such dues can also be paid to her, if her late husband would have allegedly committed misappropriation, but where no charges were framed and established against him during his lifetime after following the due procedure prescribed under the law;

(c) whether any recovery can be made from those dues; if so, the kinds of recovery that can be made; and